

Message Text

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ORIGIN PRS-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PA-02 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY S/PRS: IPERNICK :MG

APPROVED BY S/PRS - ROBERT L. FUNSETH

S/S - JPMOFFAT

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P 202049Z MAY 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 117633 TOSEC 010086

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 20, 1975

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH, S/PRS

NO. 6

FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES ACTING SPOKESMAN FUNSETH'S RESPONSES
AT TODAY'S BRIEFING, MOST OF WHICH WAS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN
LAOS.

1. LAOS -

A. AMERICANS IN SAVANNAKHET -- WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED
CONFIRMATION THAT LAO CABINET MINISTER HAS LEFT VIENTIANE
FOR SAVANNAKHET (TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF THE AMERICANS
DETAINED THERE), BUT OUR CHARGE WAS AGAIN ASSURED REPRESENTATIVES
WOULD BE SENT. UNDERSTAND THIS DELAY IS DUE
NOT TO DETENTION OF AMERICANS BUT TO INTERNAL POLITICAL
DEVELOPMENTS. CHARGE HAS AGAIN PROTESTED THE DELAY AS
WELL AS CONTINUED DETENTION OF THE 12 AMERICANS. EMBASSY
VIENTIANE HAS BEEN IN REGULAR CONTACT WITH GROUP
AND DOES NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE AMERICANS ARE IN DANGER.
WE ARE CHECKING REPORT THAT TWO OF TWELVE WERE SEPARATED
FROM THE OTHERS, BUT REPEAT THAT EMBASSY DOES NOT
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BELIEVE ANY ARE IN DANGER. WE DON'T KNOW WHY THEY

WERE SEPARATED. WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT

PL TROOPS HAVE ENTERED SAVANNKHET.

B. AMERICAN STAFF REDUCTION IN LAOS -- AS STATED LAST WEEK, IT IS OUR INTENTION TO REDUCE THE SIZE OF OUR STAFF OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS. A FEW AMERICANS HAVE LEFT. WE EXPECT MORE WILL BE LEAVING.

C. POLITICAL CHANGE IN LAOS -- WE DO NOT THINK THERE HAS BEEN ANY CHANGE DURING THE PAST WEEK.

2. DEPARTURE OF THAI AMBASSADOR -- ON BACKGROUND AS STATED YESTERDAY, WE BELIEVE HE IS GOING TO BANGKOK FOR CONSULTATION AND WILL RETURN TO WASHINGTON.

3. ALGERIA AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE ASSETS -- STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION.

4. NEXT KISSINGER-GROMYKO MEETING -- DO NOT KNOW WHEN SECRETARY WILL NEXT SEE GROMYKO.

5. KOREAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION --(QUESTIONER REFERRED TO A KOREAN PRESS REPORT THAT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED A RESOLUTION WHICH INTER ALIA CALLS ON THE U.S. TO DEMONSTRATE ITS DETERMINATION TO DEFEND THE ROK AGAINST NORTH KOREAN AGGRESSION.) WE ARE NOT AWARE THAT ROKG HAS CONVEYED ASSEMBLY'S REQUEST TO US.

6. OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY BRIEFING -- FUNSETH ANNOUNCED THAT ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS WILL BRIEF TOMORROW ON THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, TOSEC 10086, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE117633
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: IPERNICK :MG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750177-0247
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750534/aaaabewb.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN PRS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: SmithRJ
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 NOV 2003 by MaustMC>; APPROVED <12 JAN 2004 by SmithRJ>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING, MAY 20, 1975 FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM FUNSETH, S/PRS
TAGS: SOPN, LA, (FUNSETH)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006